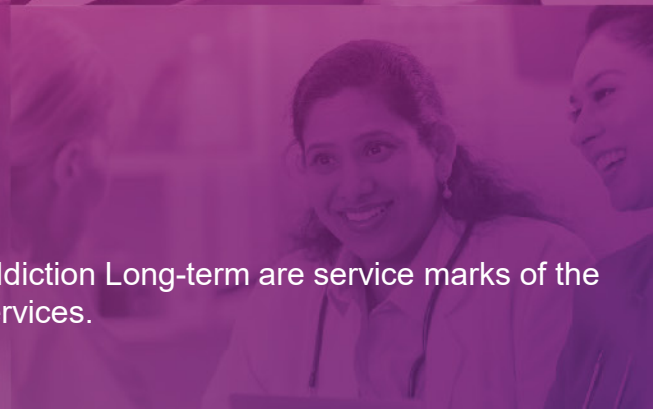




**NIH
HEAL
INITIATIVE**

Thoughts on Mechanisms

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NIH National Institutes of Health
HEAL Initiative

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Studying Social Determinants

- Why? To be efficient and effective in intervening
- Goal of “surrogate markers” for social determinants
 - Would allow more rapid assessment of whether policies are working as intended

Examples

- Policies that reduce stigma may increase number of people seeking harm reduction services and treatment.
- Policies that increase housing stability may improve use of harm reduction and treatment services.
- Policies that facilitate income may reduce a range of risky behaviors.

Linking Research to Policy

- NIH should study innovations in these areas to understand mechanisms and predictors of success.
- NIH should communicate about findings including surrogate markers in order to encourage policymakers to act on research.
- Even as we learn more about social determinants, we should make clear there is plenty of available data to act.